

2023 NWAIS Fall Educators Conference

Event Schedule

Fri, Oct 13, 2023

8:30 AM

Welcome

🕒 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM, Oct 13

📍 Tarrier Dome

General Sess...

👤 Speakers



Mark Crotty

Executive Director
NWAIS



Susan Rice

Head of School
Charles Wright Academy

9:00 AM

Cultivating Conscious & Connected Educators in Service of Belonging

🕒 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM, Oct 13

📍 Tarrier Dome

General Session

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

Neurodivergence

Wellness/SEL

In this keynote, Tovi guides us with her signature-style in cultivating our consciousness to have greater connection and belonging. Her approach is research-based and rooted in over 30 years of educational leadership experience at the intersectionality of all areas of inclusion. To ensure that there is “belonging” for us all in the many intersections of our identities, we must also acknowledge and take into account neurodiversity. From her lived experience as a leader and healer, Tovi will anchor to research-based methods for culturally-responsive teaching and the brain, as well as how to mitigate the effects of trauma and create healing-centered schools and classrooms based on neuroscience, we will be inspired to shift our pedagogies to support greater efficacy in our schools and ensure a sense of belonging.

👤 Speaker



Tovi C. Scruggs-Hussein

Leader & Healer
Tici'ess Inc.

10:15 AM

A1. Introduction to UDL: One Size Fits All Fits No One

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Wight Gym

Featured Speaker

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

Neurodivergence

Many teachers struggle with how to support students with varying needs, strengths, and identities in inclusive learning environments. Planning different lessons for different learners is exhausting and not sustainable. Yet, through the practices of Universal Design for Learning, teachers can proactively identify barriers in lesson design and instruction and design flexible learning experiences that meet the needs of all learners, including those who require significant support and those who need additional challenge. In this session, we will explore the basics of Universal Design for Learning (UDL), a framework for inclusive education that empowers all students to become expert learners. We will dive into how we can build flexibility into our lesson design to ensure all learners have the opportunity to succeed in an inclusive learning environment.

🔊 Speaker



Jeff Horwitz
Education Consultant
Novak Education

A2. Practical Strategies for Reducing Anxiety in Students

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Lower School Commons

Featured Speaker

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

Wellness/SEL

With up to one in four children struggling with anxiety in this country, overwhelmed adults are in need of a new approach as well as an effective and easy-to-implement toolkit of strategies that work. Through the use of case studies, humorous stories, and examples of common challenging situations, participants will learn easy to implement preventive tools, strategies, and interventions for reducing anxiety, increasing self-regulation, accurate thinking, and self-monitoring in students.

🔊 Speaker



Jessica Minahan
Consultant/Presenter
N/A

A3. How to Improve Self-Awareness, Empathy and Theory of Mind in the Classroom

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 LAPAC Theater

Featured Speaker

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Wellness/SEL

Developing empathy, self-awareness and building Theory Of Mind should begin in early childhood. These essential social emotional skills are interdependent of each other and are the keys to well-being and understanding others! Research shows that self-awareness affects every aspect of life: job success, academics and relationships. Recognizing emotions, and helping a child develop empathy, self-awareness and perspective taking can be taught even in distance learning. Educators will learn how to use play based methods to help children learn to read others, foster perspective taking and empathy for others. These competencies can have life-long implications as we try to develop a more inclusive and caring society.

🔊 Speaker



Caroline Maguire
ACCG, PCC, M.Ed.: ADHD and social skills expert, best-selling author, president of new england coaching services
Author of Best-Selling Book: Why Will No One Play with Me?

A4. Keynote Follow-Up Session: Resilience: A Key to Greater Belonging

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Tarrier Dome

Featured Speaker

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

Neurodivergence

Wellness/SEL

Building upon her keynote, Tovi will guide participants in exploring how greater inclusion and belonging is linked to cultivating resilience. Resilience is cultivated in 4 areas and can be taught explicitly. To DO resilience, we must BE resilient. We will explore how we've cultivated our own resilience and what it takes to become even more resilient. How exactly do we practice resilience with greater belonging? What specific language can we use to cultivate greater belonging? Tovi teaches us that "belonging" is an embodiment of *how* we do what we do that is reflected in the systems (code for: schools & classrooms) we design and create. When we are conscious and connected, we can create safe, caring, and positive school cultures where we all flourish.

🗣️ Speaker



Tovi C. Scruggs-Hussein

Leader & Healer
Tic'less Inc.

A5. Building a Democratic Classroom Through Play and Inquiry

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Lower School 122

Breakout Session Early Learning DEI

This session will lead the participant through the process used by two early childhood educators to center children's curiosity in the classroom. We will consider what it means to have a democratic classroom and to consider children as full citizens. We will also explore what co-learning looks like and why this is such a powerful way to bring child voice and agency into the classroom. Session attendees should expect to actively participate as well as reflect on different ideas and perspectives as well as find joy in shared stories about the work we do with children.

🗣️ Speaker



Rixa Evershed

Beginning School and Auxiliary Programs Director
Charles Wright Academy

A6. Including Neurodiverse Students in Your Classroom

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Lower School 212

Breakout Session Early Learning Lower School Neurodivergence

We will share our experiences of including neurodiverse students in our classrooms. We are committed to ensuring they receive the services they need in order to be successful and to remain members of our school community.

🗣️ Speakers



Jennifer Annable

Head of School
North Seattle French School



Celine Bourdales

Director of Curriculum & Instruction
North Seattle French School



Melanie De Torrente

Learning Support Specialist
North Seattle French School

A7. Flipping behavioral models: Innovations from a long lasting and mutually beneficial collaboration between Educators and Behavior Analysts

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Lower School 213

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

Neurodivergence

DEI

Daron Henry, Youngest Level Educator at Spruce Street School and Erin Benzikry, M.Ed., BCBA of STEPS and share how their teams have partnered with one another over the course of the last seven years. While this partnership was established initially to support individual neurodiverse students, it has evolved to become an innovative model to support the social and academic successes of all students. Attendees of this session will learn of strategies which they can immediately begin implementing with their own students on individual, class-wide and school-wide levels.

🗣️ Speakers



Daron Henry

Teacher
Spruce Street School



Erin Benzikry

Co-Owner and Clinical Director
STEPS, LLC

A8. Purposeful Literacy: Using Structured Read Alouds as a Cross-Curricular Pathway

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Lower School 220

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

DEI

"Purposeful Literacy" is a curriculum pathway that is founded in structured read alouds that build background knowledge that help shape academic tasks and problems in cross-curricular contexts. Join us for a hands on session where you will be able to not only explore units that have been successful already but have a chance to brainstorm one for your own classroom. In addition to discussion and exploration into the Purposeful Literacy pedagogy, participants will also be the students and experience a literacy study in action! This session is geared towards Elementary age students but concepts could be applicable for older ages as well.

🗣️ Speakers



Megan Peck

Core Teacher
The Perkins School



Larissa Zubair

1st Grade Teacher
The Perkins School

A9. Building ADHD Friendly Classrooms in Elementary School

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 101

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

Neurodivergence

How can we build classrooms where children with ADHD learn and belong? In this breakout session, teachers will **deepen their understanding of ADHD** through learning about the neurological basis of the condition and recognizing common behaviors associated with ADHD. They will **leave with 8 practical and effective classroom strategies** they can use to support students. Participants will experience these strategies in action, as **we model ADHD friendly practices** throughout the presentation.

🗣️ Speakers



Beth Williams
The Bertschi School



Liz Karna (Huehnergath)
Learning Specialist and Founder
Thrive Tutoring and Consulting

A10. Layers of Belonging: School, Teacher, Student

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 102

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

DEI

Join us for the first installment in the UCDS Student-Centered Communication series. In alignment with Culturally Responsive Teaching, relationship building is an essential ingredient in fostering belonging. Building community in schools has many layers. Understanding institutional values, harnessing self-reflection of identity and biases, and centering students provide a starting point for improving our practice as educators. This session is designed to practice hands-on tools for evaluating current systems and planning updated modes of connecting the three layers of belonging.

Please bring a device to this session (e.g. smartphone, laptop, tablet).

🗣️ Speakers



Patrick King
DEI Curriculum Specialist
University Child Development School



Lily Wei
Co-director of UCDS Institute/Educator
University Child Development School



Kristi Grouws
Co-Director of Educational mentorship and UCDS Institute
University Child Development School

A11. A Community of Writers: Addressing Discrepancies in Handwriting Within the Classroom

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 103

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

Neurodivergence

With students entering your class with such varied skills, how can you streamline your time and energy for handwriting instruction?

Handwriting, like any motor skill, needs to be practiced with intention. Current research validates connections between the act of writing and the mastery of reading skills. Effortless and legible handwriting continues to be a valuable form of written communication. This session, led by 2 occupational therapists, will present ways to integrate specialized instructional techniques into classroom lessons.

🔊 Speakers



Heather Schuman
Occupational Therapist
360 Pediatric Therapy



Catherine Machielse
Occupational Therapist
360 Pediatric Therapy

A12. Belonging is Everywhere: Weaving the Tapestry of Belonging in a Child's Mind

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 104

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

DEI

Fostering an abiding relationship of belonging within a classroom, this breakout session will focus on understanding the importance of belonging on the path of identity. It will further enable participants to clearly identify and define their classroom's definition of belonging and take a close look at the practice of name celebrations in a Lower School setting.

🔊 Speakers



Abha Manchanda
PreK Teacher
Waterford School



Melissa Armenta
Asst. Lower School Director
Waterford School



Melanie Battistone
Assistant Head of School / Lower School Head
Waterford School

A13. Building DEI Pathways for Faculty Engagement

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 105

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

DEI

Encouraging faculty members to engage meaningfully in DEI work requires meeting them where they are and valuing their expertise. Learn how the Alexander Dawson School has created a distributed leadership model to lead their DEI initiatives and different pathways for teachers to engage in making the school more inclusive. Participants will learn about the school's journey, DEI Ambassador model, examine strategies used to engage faculty, and leave with digital resources that have been carefully curated.

🔊 Speakers



Isis Lopez
Teacher
The Alexander Dawson School at Rainbow Mountain



Ivette Garcia-Gonzalez
Teacher
The Alexander Dawson School at Rainbow Mountain

A14. Belonging Beyond The School Day

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 106

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

School is no longer 8:30-3:30. Join this session to find out how our school is working to ensure that students are seen, nurtured, and supported during their time in before and after care, their transition to the program is seamless, and they are celebrated for their achievements. We will also explore how we are helping families whose only touchpoints with the school are before and after care feel connected to the community.

🗣️ Speaker



Euan Oswald

Director of Auxiliary Programs
Open Window School

A15. Building Self-Efficacy in our Students

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 201

Breakout Session

Lower School

Middle School

DEI

How do teachers respond when some students are not meeting learning targets or gaining mastery of a concept? We carve out time for student choice, small group work and intentional teaching to fill these gaps. This "flex time" is based on data, assessments, and is key to targeting the gaps in learning. The teachers explains that data to the student, and the student then begins working on concepts they need to shore up or relearn. The data can also be used to foster self-reflection in your students and help them to learn more about what they are doing well, and areas they need more support and practice. Flex time in Lower School can be multiple subjects, for Middle and High School students, this can be based on subject. Regardless of the grade or subject, you can learn to create W.I.N (What I Need) time in your classroom to foster emotional health, academic growth, and autonomy in students learning.

🗣️ Speaker



Julia Guard

Curriculum and Instruction Director
Seattle Hebrew Academy

A16. The Science of Reading and Instruction

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 202

Breakout Session

Lower School

Middle School

Neurodivergence

This session will provide participants with background on and rationale for the efficacy of structured literacy practices, based on research in the Science of Reading, as well as direction in the practical application of these concepts to effective reading and writing classroom instruction.

🗣️ Speakers



Edward Alvarran

Learning Center Director
Hamlin Robinson School



Megan Hooper

Middle School Teacher
Hamlin Robinson School

A17. If Not Now, When?: Developing a Summer Reading Program That Fosters Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 203

Breakout Session

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

“If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?” ~ Rabbi Hillel Portland Jewish Academy has built a summer reading program that reflects our values around identity, embracing the stories of others, and taking action for change. Join us with a collaborative partner from your school to envision how you can develop and implement a summer reading program to reflect your school’s values and foster an inclusive community.

🗣️ Speakers



Marcie Brewer

Middle school humanities and drama
Portland Jewish Academy



Harriet Wingard

Middle school humanities
Portland Jewish Academy



Benjamin Foote

Jewish Studies Teacher
Portland Jewish Academy



Elana Cohn-Rozansky

Service learning and Jewish Studies teacher
Portland Jewish Academy

A18. Addressing Eating Disorders and Disordered Eating in Schools

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 204

Breakout Session

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

Wellness/SEL

As educators, we have the unique and daunting opportunity to have eyes and ears on the full picture of our students' wellbeing. Food and body concerns are pervasive among adolescents and in our culture at large. And yet, rarely are educators provided with the background and strategies to intervene confidently and effectively. This session will cover three roles educators have in addressing eating disorders and disordered eating in schools: content instructor, model and mentor, and observer and resource for support. We will discuss concrete approaches educators can use to help their students maintain positive relationships with food and body during adolescence.

🗣️ Speakers



Amy Sanchez

School Counselor
Eastside Preparatory School



Kadie Thompson

Physical Education:Wellness
Eastside Preparatory School

A19. Creating strong school communities at the intersection of DEI, well-being, and technology

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 205

Breakout Session

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

Across the world, school communities are looking to discuss healthy ways to address racial injustice and promote equity and inclusivity. Drawing upon their vast knowledge of students' experiences with technology and social media and their impact on student well-being, The Social Institute will offer specific strategies that innovative educators are using to engage in productive conversations, build supportive environments, and drive lasting change. The Social Institute will share best practices to empower your entire community at the intersection of DEI, well-being, and technology.

🗣️ Speaker



Andrea Jenkins
Director of Partner Success
The Social Institute

A20. Revealing Stolen Truths: A History of Inclusion and Visibility

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 206

Breakout Session **Lower School** **Middle School** **Upper School** **DEI**

In the Americas we have laid witness to countless physical and mental atrocities and suppression of the human voice. This session will inspire a discourse about social change, as well as documented racial inequities, injustices, and stereotypes. A missing piece from these conversations is the bridge that connects impactful musical experiences to our origins and historical perspective - the stolen truths. With the banjo as their guide, participants will learn about the history of the instrument, explore transmissions of music and oral storytelling, and discuss the positive impact of teaching through an intersectional lens. During this presentation attendees will be offered examples of counter storytelling in lessons and engage in conversations that will allow them to apply the principles learned when designing curriculum.

🗣️ Speakers



Valerie Diaz Leroy
Director of Program
Puget Sound Community School



Samuel Williams
Teaching staff member
Puget Sound Community School

A21. Pass the Mic: Supporting Student Voice and Leadership

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 71

Breakout Session **Lower School** **Middle School** **Upper School** **DEI** **Neurodivergence**

In this session, you will hear examples of student-driven workshops planned and executed by One Stone's Lab51 high schoolers. Students have led topics related to social science, science, and health. Students will share their experience: highs, lows, and their support systems. Coaches, the adult educators at One Stone, will share their experience. The session will conclude with a brainstorm led by One Stone's students on how to support student-driven workshops/classes in your educational space.

🗣️ Speakers



Emily Watkins
Coach
One Stone



Erin Nixon
Coach
One Stone

A22. The Emotionally Resilient and Responsive Teacher

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 72

Breakout Session

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

This session offers an overview of the Nonviolent Communication (NVC) communication framework and practice with its application in schools. We will explore the many ways that the NVC framework can help reduce defensiveness, conflict, and inflexible thinking and help build a person's capacity for empathy, resilience, and problem solving. This framework can be applied when working with students, parents, and colleagues.

🗣️ Speaker



Maria Moses

Middle School Director
The Northwest School

A23. The Collectivist Classroom; Restructuring Discussions and Increasing Student Agency

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 73

Breakout Session

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

Think about why we ask students to raise their hands and what type of value system this reflects. The presenter will share norms, lessons, and videos exploring how we can build community, manage classrooms, and restructure discussions to reflect collectivist values. Stemming from culturally sustaining, research-based practices and her background as a multiracial teacher from Hawai'i, we will explore "free participation" and how it builds mutual respect, fosters authentic dialogue, and increases student agency.

🗣️ Speaker



Nicole Warner-Huang

2nd Grade Teacher
Bertschi School

A24. Mission-Based Grading: Targeting Feedback to Motivate Student Learning

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 74

Breakout Session

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

Mission-Based Grading has been used in Rowland Hall's middle school since 2015, and this non-traditional grading system continues to evolve and mature under the guidance of teachers and administrators. Join two of the educators who helped develop mission-based grading as we reflect, share updates, and invite you to engage with and discuss actual MBG data and case studies. We hope this session will inspire participants and the facilitators to consider and implement next steps for improving the grading and reporting systems in our schools.

🗣️ Speakers



Charlotte Larsen

Middle School Assistant Principal
Rowland Hall



Wendell Thomas

Director of Teaching and Learning
Rowland Hall

A25. Building a Comprehensive Sexual Violence Prevention Education Program

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 81

Breakout Session

Middle School

Upper School

Wellness/SEL

DEI

We will explore how Lakeside School in Seattle built a comprehensive sexual violence prevention education program for students in grades 10-12. We will review the creation of the program, approaches for cultivating knowledge and skills, explorations of the DEIBJ components of the program, and critical issues in development. This session will assist schools interested in undertaking this important work dedicated to fostering student health and wellbeing and cultivating safer, stronger communities.

🗨️ Speakers



Julie Lutton

5-12 Human Development & Health Department Head
Lakeside School



Abbey Sandusky

US Human Development & Health Teacher
Lakeside School

A26. Trauma-informed teaching practices to support learning and wellbeing for all students in our classrooms

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 87

Breakout Session

Middle School

Upper School

Wellness/SEL

DEI

Neurodivergence

The interpersonal experiences we offer each other help shape the biology of our brains. These experiences can potentially have a significant impact on physical, mental, and social health. Understanding basic neurobiology to enhance our approaches in schools can foster learning environments where each interdependent member of the school community can thrive while supporting each other through challenging experiences. Participants in this session will be introduced to the theory underlying trauma-informed approaches and practices in the learning environment. Presenters will offer concrete, actionable steps teachers can use in their classrooms.

🗨️ Speakers



Jennifer Ford

Math Teacher
Westside School



Lynn Heramis

The Northwest School

A27. Hands On Mandala Drawing

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 107

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

Neurodivergence

Wellness/SEL

Breakout Session

Join me for a relaxing, quiet, Mandala drawing session to kick off your day. The session will be a quiet, hands-on activity, focusing on the traditional drawing of mandalas.

This is an activity I use with my middle school students that they find, incredibly, engaging, and relaxing. Many students find the project to be an uplifting part of their day as it can help create a wonderful sense of calm.

🗨️ Speaker



Christopher Hoppin

Middle School Visual Arts Teacher
Charles Wright Academy

A28. Cultivating Critical Belonging: Primary Research in the Humanities & Social Sciences

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 84

Breakout Session

Upper School

DEI

We will discuss ways of empowering students (9-12) to use primary research and analytical reflection to investigate and make sense of their own experiences at school. Using an English class cultural anthropology project as a model, we will workshop ways to support students in crafting research questions, conducting interviews and surveys, and maintaining open-minded objectivity as researchers. Participants will work on designing a research assignment of their own.

👤 Speaker



Michael Mlekoday
Upper School English Teacher
Charles Wright Academy

A29. Creating Democratic Learning Environments

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 85

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

Are you someone who is passionate about shaping the next generation of active and engaged citizens, capable of thriving in a diverse and democratic society? In an era of increasing political polarization, it is critical to look beyond the traditional "School House Rock" view of democracy and explore the underlying values that make democracy possible. Join us for an empowering workshop on "Creating Democratic Learning Environments". During this workshop, participants will delve into the six essential Democratic Life Skills that students need to navigate and contribute meaningfully to a pluralistic democratic society. You will leave the workshop equipped with actionable strategies to create a vibrant, inclusive, and participatory classroom.

👤 Speaker



Brandon Farrar
1st/2nd Grade Teacher
Giddens School

A31. Traversing the long and thorny road towards equity in our schools

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 82

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

This workshop will use the metaphor of a journey to examine the nuanced and complex work towards racial equity in independent schools. We will explore detours and pitfalls that commonly derail our intentions for racial equity and justice, and present strategies to address them. With the use of case studies, reflection, and a hands-on activity, attendees will fill their "backpack" with the essential tools to traverse this long and thorny road. Attendees will leave knowing how to recognize, label, and counteract the detours that lead us astray on the path to equity. We will center self-care and the lifting of others as essential tools for the journey as our collective liberation.

👤 Speakers



Danae Howe
Vocal Music Teacher
SEATTLE ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



Mahtab Mahmoodzadeh
Director of Diversity
The Overlake School



Mollie Page
Director Of Curriculum And Instruction
Eastside Catholic School

A32. SEL: Everywhere, Everyone, All at once

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Lower School Library 201

Breakout Session

Lower School

Wellness/SEL

DEI

Neurodivergence

Have you been wanting to have tools to support your students in their social and emotional wellbeing, but don't want to always depend on a particular curriculum for those tools? Join two school counselors that have a desire to weave in more SEL into the everyday. Come learn and take away tools to support your practice as an educator, where students can benefit from SEL support outside of just a visit from their counselor.

👤 Speakers



Lynsey Burge

School Counselor
Giddens School



Aviona Gaines

Upper school counselor
The Evergreen School

A33. A Walk in the Woods

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Oct 13

📍 Meet Outside Lower School Front Doors

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

Wellness/SEL

Ready for a change of scenery? Outdoor spaces offer a new perspective to all subjects. Come explore our woods and hear about some of the ways this part of our campus provides space for developing thinkers, innovators, collaborators, communicators, explorers, and stewards. This walk in the woods requires sturdy shoes, clothing for the weather, and a readiness for peace. We will meet in front of the Lower School building outside the front doors.

👤 Speakers



Nikki FastLee

Charles Wright Academy



Deanne Trummert

4th Grade Teacher
Charles Wright Academy

11:30 AM

B1. Strengthen Executive Function Skills in Early Childhood

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Tarrier Dome

Featured Speaker

Early Learning

Lower School

DEI

Neurodivergence

Wellness/SEL

This presentation will outline how educators can understand and recognize executive function challenges and how to implement evidence-based play modifications and interventions in inclusive classrooms. Play coaching provides opportunities to support learning goals - for children with diverse learning differences socio-economic backgrounds and experiences - that are teacher-initiated and yet can be child-led. Play coaching is intentionally flexible enabling professional discretion to develop activities that simultaneously align with their curricular and SEL objectives. Learning Objectives: · Increase teachers' capacity and opportunities to introduce play coaching into regularly scheduled course content. · leverage the joy of play to allow children to connect authentically with content · Help teachers set up play coaching environment and provide support · Ensure the students retain agency as they engage with the materials their peers and their teacher.

Speaker



Caroline Maguire

ACCG, PCC, M.Ed.: ADHD and social skills expert, best-selling author, president of new england coaching services

Author of Best-Selling Book: Why Will No One Play with Me?

B2. Creating a Neurodiversity-Affirming Classroom

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Wight Gym

Featured Speaker

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

Neurodivergence

The neurodiversity movement is empowering people who learn and think differently to change the world. ADHD, autism, dyslexia, and cognitive giftedness are a few of the types of brains that fall under the umbrella of neurodiversity. During this talk, Emily will synthesize what we know about neurodivergent learners and how we can best help them find success academically, socially, and emotionally by creating neurodiversity-affirming classrooms.

Speaker



Emily Kircher-Morris, LPC

Licensed Professional Counselor

The Neurodiversity Podcast

B3. Building Student Voice, Engagement and Empowerment through RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Lower School Commons

Featured Speaker

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

Neurodivergence

Wellness/SEL

Chronic behavior problems are often a challenge in classrooms but traditional reactions and punishments have failed to move the needle. Restorative practices are a set of practices that honor student background and identity and set a different tone of respect and dignity. A system that treats behavior differently and opens a dialogue between educators and students can truly make a difference. This session will investigate restorative practices - what they are, how to implement them, and what to expect - and how they can transform your learning environment into a more productive space where all students feel a sense of pride and belonging.

Speaker



Jeff Horwitz

Education Consultant

Novak Education

B4. Big Hair, Don't Care: Honoring Authenticity When Assimilation Is The Norm

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 LAPAC Theater

Featured Speaker

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

Wellness/SEL

Ever wonder why you pretend to be someone you aren't when you're around those different from you? Do you walk and talk differently, laugh differently, even eat differently to fit in? And, is that truly inclusion? When we say inclusion, do we mean inclusion through assimilation? Come hear innovative ways of moving towards authenticity and away from assimilation by utilizing Kimberlee's trademarked tools to truly become an inclusive organization.

🗣️ Speaker



Kimberlee Williams
Featured Speaker
Engaging Across Difference

B5. The Case for Storytelling

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Lower School 122

Breakout Session Early Learning DEI

In the early childhood classroom, access to rich listening, speaking, reading and writing opportunities is paramount to healthy personal development, and healthy belonging in a school community. In this session, I hope to introduce you to storytelling and share how I've used it in the classroom and what a gift I've found it to be in my relationships with students and in literacy goals for the school year.

🗣️ Speaker



Kate Cales
French Immersion School of Washington

B6. Including Neurodiverse Students in Your Classroom

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Lower School 212

Breakout Session Early Learning Lower School Neurodivergence DEI

We will share our experiences of including neurodiverse students in our classrooms. We are committed to ensuring they receive the services they need in order to be successful and to remain members of our school community.

🗣️ Speakers



Jennifer Annable
Head of School
North Seattle French School



Celine Bourdales
Director of Curriculum & Instruction
North Seattle French School



Melanie De Torrente
Learning Support Specialist
North Seattle French School

B8. Purposeful Literacy: Using Structured Read Alouds as a Cross-Curricular Pathway

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Lower School 220

Breakout Session Early Learning Lower School DEI

"Purposeful Literacy" is a curriculum pathway that is founded in structured read alouds that build background knowledge that help shape academic tasks and problems in cross-curricular contexts. Join us for a hands on session where you will be able to not only explore units that have been successful already but have a chance to brainstorm one for your own classroom. In addition to discussion and exploration into the Purposeful Literacy pedagogy, participants will also be the students and experience a literacy study in action! This session is geared towards Elementary age students but concepts could be applicable for older ages as well.

🗣️ Speakers



Megan Peck
Core Teacher
The Perkins School



Larissa Zubair
1st Grade Teacher
The Perkins School

B9. Building ADHD Friendly Classrooms in Elementary School

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 101

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

Neurodivergence

How can we build classrooms where children with ADHD learn and belong? In this breakout session, teachers will **deepen their understanding of ADHD** through learning about the neurological basis of the condition and recognizing common behaviors associated with ADHD. They will **leave with 8 practical and effective classroom strategies** they can use to support students. Participants will experience these strategies in action, as **we model ADHD friendly practices** throughout the presentation.

🗣️ Speakers



Beth Williams
The Bertschi School



Liz Karna (Huehnergarth)
Learning Specialist and Founder
Thrive Tutoring and Consulting

B10. Layers of Belonging: School, Teacher, Student

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 102

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

DEI

Join us for the first installment in the UCDS Student-Centered Communication series. In alignment with Culturally Responsive Teaching, relationship building is an essential ingredient in fostering belonging. Building community in schools has many layers. Understanding institutional values, harnessing self-reflection of identity and biases, and centering students provide a starting point for improving our practice as educators. This session is designed to practice hands-on tools for evaluating current systems and planning updated modes of connecting the three layers of belonging.

Please bring a device to this session (e.g. smartphone, laptop, tablet).

🗣️ Speakers



Patrick King
DEI Curriculum Specialist
University Child Development School



Lily Wei
Co-director of UCDS Institute/Educator
University Child Development School

Kristi Grouws
Co-Director of Educational mentorship and UCDS Institute
University Child Development School

B11. A Community of Writers: Addressing Discrepancies in Handwriting Within the Classroom

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 103

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

Neurodivergence

With students entering your class with such varied skills, how can you streamline your time and energy for handwriting instruction?

Handwriting, like any motor skill, needs to be practiced with intention. Current research validates connections between the act of writing and the mastery of reading skills. Effortless and legible handwriting continues to be a valuable form of written communication. This session, led by 2 occupational therapists, will present ways to integrate specialized instructional techniques into classroom lessons.

🗨️ Speakers



Heather Schuman

Occupational Therapist
360 Pediatric Therapy



Catherine Machielse

Occupational Therapist
360 Pediatric Therapy

B12. Belonging is Everywhere: Weaving the Tapestry of Belonging in a Child's Mind

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 104

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

DEI

Fostering an abiding relationship of belonging within a classroom, this breakout session will focus on understanding the importance of belonging on the path of identity. It will further enable participants to clearly identify and define their classroom's definition of belonging and take a close look at the practice of name celebrations in a Lower School setting.

🗨️ Speakers



Abha Manchanda

PreK Teacher
Waterford School



Melissa Armenta

Asst. Lower School Director
Waterford School



Melanie Battistone

Assistant Head of School / Lower School Head
Waterford School

B13. Creating decodable books - a cross-grade adventure

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 105

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Neurodivergence

We will present a project completed by our sixth graders in which they wrote and designed decodable books for the kindergarten class. These student-generated books reflected the experiences and interests of the young readers while providing them valuable practice with independent reading. Participants of the session will learn what makes a successful decodable text and make their own book to take home.

🔊 Speakers



Britta Daubersmith

4-8th grade librarian and literacy support
The Arbor School of Arts and Sciences



Felicity Nunley

K-3rd grade librarian and literacy support
The Arbor School of Arts and Sciences

B14. Promoting a Whole Child Approach through Challenge Success

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 106

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

This session will highlight the efforts made at the Alexander Dawson School to align school-wide practices with Stanford University's Challenge Success framework. Learn more about the school's effort to keep social-emotional learning at the core of their mission, while balancing well-being and belonging with academic challenge. Participants will have time to explore curated resources and leave with a concrete action step and tools to bring back to their school.

🔊 Speakers



Brandon Wiley

Chief Academic Officer
The Alexander Dawson School at Rainbow Mountain



Mastuko Freeman

The Alexander Dawson School at Rainbow Mountain

B15. Using Podcasts as a Culturally Sustaining Practice in Integrated Learning

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 201

Breakout Session

Lower School

Middle School

DEI

Inspired by Textured Teaching by Lorena Escoto Germán, 5th graders at Giddens engaged in an interdisciplinary unit that was centered on book club books connected to themes related to immigration. In this presentation we will share how we applied Germán's framework to elementary students, how we integrated social justice and social studies concepts through book clubs, and how we used podcasts as a vehicle for students to share their learning with the wider community.

🔊 Speakers



Sarah Berkley

Spark Teacher
Giddens School



Cory Cummings

Educational Technology Specialist
Giddens School



Colin Anderson

Fifth Grade Teacher
Giddens School

B16. The Science of Reading and Instruction

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 202

Breakout Session

Lower School

Middle School

Neurodivergence

This session will provide participants with background on and rationale for the efficacy of structured literacy practices, based on research in the Science of Reading, as well as direction in the practical application of these concepts to effective reading and writing classroom instruction.

🗣️ Speaker



Edward Alvarran

Learning Center Director
Hamlin Robinson School

B17. Boosting Brain Power: A Workshop on Maximizing Executive Functioning in the Classroom

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 203

Breakout Session

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

Neurodivergence

This workshop aims to equip teachers with knowledge and strategies to support the development of executive function skills in their students, especially neurodiverse learners who may need more support to find success. Executive function skills such as working memory, cognitive flexibility, and self-regulation are essential for success in school and beyond. Through interactive activities and discussions, teachers will learn to reduce the extraneous cognitive load for students so that energy can be redirected towards learning.

🗣️ Speakers



Lindsey Key

Director of Teaching and Learning
Hamlin Robinson School



Emma Lopez

Curriculum Specialist
Hamlin Robinson School

B18. Who Decides? Collaborative Leadership in Schools

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 204

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

Concentrated power ultimately refutes the goals of self-directed learning and educational empowerment. It may be easier to wait for your Head of School to take the fall when an idea or plan doesn't work, but a collaborative leadership model inherently demands collective contribution and sets the stage for deeper, more honest, and more meaningful engagement from all staff and students.

🗣️ Speakers



Valerie Diaz Leroy
Director of Program
Puget Sound Community School



Sieglinde Levery-Nicholas
Director of Community Engagement
Puget Sound Community School



Samuel Mitchell
Community-centered education
Puget Sound Community School

B19. Creating strong school communities at the intersection of DEI, well-being, and technology

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 205

Breakout Session **Lower School** **Middle School** **Upper School** **DEI**

Across the world, school communities are looking to discuss healthy ways to address racial injustice and promote equity and inclusivity. Drawing upon their vast knowledge of students' experiences with technology and social media and their impact on student well-being, The Social Institute will offer specific strategies that innovative educators are using to engage in productive conversations, build supportive environments, and drive lasting change. The Social Institute will share best practices to empower your entire community at the intersection of DEI, well-being, and technology.

🗣️ Speaker



Andrea Jenkins
Director of Partner Success
The Social Institute

B20. Supporting Students with Dylexia in the School Library

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 206

Breakout Session **Lower School** **Middle School** **Upper School** **DEI**

Learn how librarians can fully support students with Language Based Learning Differences on their campus.

🗣️ Speakers



Danielle Melilli
Lower School Librarian
Hamlin Robinson School



Claire Elam
Library & Media Specialist
Hamlin Robinson School

B21. Pass the Mic: Supporting Student Voice and Leadership

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 71

Breakout Session **Lower School** **Middle School** **Upper School** **DEI** **Neurodivergence**

In this session, you will hear examples of student-driven workshops planned and executed by One Stone's Lab51 high schoolers. Students have led topics related to social science, science, and health. Students will share their experience: highs, lows, and their support systems. Coaches, the adult educators at One Stone, will share their experience. The session will conclude with a brainstorm led by One Stone's students on how to support student-driven workshops/classes in your educational space.

🔊 Speakers



Emily Watkins

Coach
One Stone



Erin Nixon

Coach
One Stone

B22. Emerging Leaders Institute Cohort - A Gathering for Those Currently Enrolled in the ELI Program

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 72

Breakout Ses...

This is a meeting for those who are currently enrolled in the NWAIS Emerging Leaders Institute.

Looking for more information about applying for a future cohort?

Emerging Leaders is a year-long cohort-based program to develop independent school leaders. The program will support participants to take the next step in their career through reflective practice and building skills. Next steps may be toward taking on new responsibilities in their current role or taking on something completely new. Participants will meet monthly in person and via zoom, attend an opening retreat as well as NWAIS professional development programming.

[You can find more information about the program, what it entails, and application deadlines here](#)

Live Info Session! There will also be an information session over lunch in Middle School Room 103. See session L10 for more information.

🔊 Speakers



Marianne Picha

Book Bag Learning



Jabali Stewart

Co-Founder
Huayruro



Giselle Furlonge

Associate Head of School
Seattle Academy of Arts and Sciences



Jij de Jesus

Director of Strategic Initiatives
Rowland Hall

B23. The Collectivist Classroom; Restructuring Discussions and Increasing Student Agency

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 73

Breakout Session

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

Think about why we ask students to raise their hands and what type of value system this reflects. The presenter will share norms, lessons, and videos exploring how we can build community, manage classrooms, and restructure discussions to reflect collectivist values. Stemming from culturally sustaining, research-based practices and her background as a multiracial teacher from Hawai'i, we will explore "free participation" and how it builds mutual respect, fosters authentic dialogue, and increases student agency.

👤 Speaker



Nicole Warner-Huang

2nd Grade Teacher
Bertschi School

B25. Building a Comprehensive Sexual Violence Prevention Education Program

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 81

Breakout Session

Middle School

Upper School

Wellness/SEL

DEI

We will explore how Lakeside School in Seattle built a comprehensive sexual violence prevention education program for students in grades 10-12. We will review the creation of the program, approaches for cultivating knowledge and skills, explorations of the DEIBJ components of the program, and critical issues in development. This session will assist schools interested in undertaking this important work dedicated to fostering student health and wellbeing and cultivating safer, stronger communities.

👤 Speakers



Julie Lutton

5-12 Human Development & Health Department Head
Lakeside School



Abbey Sandusky

US Human Development & Health Teacher
Lakeside School

B26. Bridging Legacies Across Campuses (BLAC)

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 87

Breakout Session

Upper School

DEI

This session would discuss the process of spotlighting and connecting with BIPOC graduates from colleges, highschool and universities to support the next generation of BIPOC learners.

👤 Speaker



Jonathan Lee

Director of Admissions - Upper School
Seattle Academy of Arts and Sciences

B27. Healing Through Music - A Toolbox of Culturally Relevant Ditties to Use in a Pinch

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 82

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

Wellness/SEL

Build a culturally relevant toolbox of short musical ditties/tunes/refrains to use strategically in moments of your personal and professional life. A ditty is a short tune you can hold on to. Popular music is designed with simple and memorable hooks. We often remember and use hooks because the words become relevant in life's moments and we sing or hum them. Ditties are similar to hooks. Participants will learn to use ditties in their musical toolbox to help them celebrate, be grateful or navigate through moments in their lives. We all have moments where we need grounding and focus. This toolbox includes ditties for Abundance, Getting Work Done, Being Grateful, Manifesting a Feeling Safety in a difficult moments and more.

🔊 Speaker



Danae Howe

Vocal Music Teacher
SEATTLE ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

B28. Cultivating Critical Belonging: Primary Research in the Humanities & Social Sciences

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 84

Breakout Session Upper School DEI

We will discuss ways of empowering students (9-12) to use primary research and analytical reflection to investigate and make sense of their own experiences at school. Using an English class cultural anthropology project as a model, we will workshop ways to support students in crafting research questions, conducting interviews and surveys, and maintaining open-minded objectivity as researchers. Participants will work on designing a research assignment of their own.

🔊 Speaker



Michael Mlekoday

Upper School English Teacher
Charles Wright Academy

B29. Creating Democratic Learning Environments

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 85

Breakout Session Early Learning Lower School Middle School Upper School DEI

Are you someone who is passionate about shaping the next generation of active and engaged citizens, capable of thriving in a diverse and democratic society? In an era of increasing political polarization, it is critical to look beyond the traditional "School House Rock" view of democracy and explore the underlying values that make democracy possible. Join us for an empowering workshop on "Creating Democratic Learning Environments". During this workshop, participants will delve into the six essential Democratic Life Skills that students need to navigate and contribute meaningfully to a pluralistic democratic society. You will leave the workshop equipped with actionable strategies to create a vibrant, inclusive, and participatory classroom.

🔊 Speaker



Brandon Farrar

1st/2nd Grade Teacher
Giddens School

B30. Instructional Mentoring: Creating a system of support for new educators

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 86

Breakout Session Early Learning Lower School Middle School Upper School DEI Wellness/SEL

In this session you will hear from educators who designed a new teacher induction program - for teachers, by teachers. This induction program focuses on how teachers and administrators can work together to create a culture of belonging and support for new educators while also offering opportunities for growth for experienced teachers through instructional mentoring. Whether you are an administrator, experienced teacher or new to the profession, this session will share resources, materials, and activities that will allow you to gain buy-in at your school and launch your own program.

🔊 Speakers



Amanda Ward

Head of School
The Island School



Shannon Boss

Teacher
The Island School

B31. Courageous Communities: Building A Peer-to-Peer Classroom Coaching Practice

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 83

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

Wellness/SEL

Why do teachers love teaching? What makes a day a “good” day in the classroom? How do teachers respond to stress, adversity, set backs, and other challenges? What do you do when you feel “stuck” in the classroom? This session will explore the power of peer-to-peer instructional coaching to promote growth and prevent burn out inside of deliberately courageous teaching communities.

🔊 Speakers



Nancy Woller

Liberal Arts Teaching Chair
The Waterford School



Harmony Button

Instructional Coach / Teacher
The Waterford School

B32. Interpretive Discussion to Activate Thinking and Inspire Inquiry

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 LaPac 74

Breakout Session

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

Neurodivergence

Teachers will engage in interpretive discussion of various "texts" including a painting and a short passage of philosophy. Teachers will be introduced to a differentiated questioning protocol to support student work as well as discussion leading protocols that will support their work as teachers. The protocols are cross-disciplinary: anything can be a text. Come prepared to put your questioning cap on!

🔊 Speaker



Gabrielle Plastrik

MS Humanities Coordinator/8th Grade Humanities
Charles Wright Academy

B33. A Walk in the Woods

🕒 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Meet Outside Lower School Front Doors

Breakout Session

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

Wellness/SEL

Ready for a change of scenery? Outdoor spaces offer a new perspective to all subjects. Come explore our woods and hear about some of the ways this part of our campus provides space for developing thinkers, innovators, collaborators, communicators, explorers, and stewards. This walk in the woods requires sturdy shoes, clothing for the weather, and a readiness for peace. We will meet in front of the Lower School building outside the front doors.

🔊 Speakers



Nikki FastLee
Charles Wright Academy



Deanne Trummert
5th Grade Teacher
M - Charles Wright Academy
📍 Middle School Commons and Tarrier Dome

12:30 PM

Lunch Information

A variety of lunches will be available in the Tarrier Dome and The Middle School Commons, including gluten free, dairy free, vegan and vegetarian meals.

Speical Lunches: If you have requested a special lunch or have a specific allergy, there is a labeled lunch available for you in the Middle School Commons. Please go to the "Special Lunch Table". Your special lunch should be noted on your nametag.

If they have run out of the kind of lunch you need in the dome, please come up to the Middle School commons and we will get you sorted out.

Going to a Lunch Discussion? If you are going to a lunch session, we recommend getting your lunch in the Middle School commons.

Head of School Lunch : If you RSVP'ed, you unch will be available in the Upper School Commons. If you did not RSVP, please pick up your lunch in the Middle School Commons and procede to the meeting space.

Looking for a place to eat? Try these locations:

1. Limited tables in the Tarrier Dome
2. Limited tables in the Middle School Commons
3. Chairs and bleachers in the Tarrier Dome
4. Chairs and bleachers in the Wight Gym
5. Classrooms - as long as you tidy up. Please bring your garbage to a large can, rather than the small clasrrom waste basket.

L1. What do we do with white moms?!

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM, Oct 13

📍 Lower School 122

Discussion / Gath...

What do we do with white moms?! Description: In our work toward justice and equity, white moms push back, question our methods, disagree with our perspectives, offer "left out" voices, critique Black and Brown teachers, and take focus away from students. We're not here to shame their kids, but we're not here to serve moms either. Let's share stories to try to discover successful strategies for earning and keeping trust with white moms so we can push our students and schools ahead.

🗣️ Speakers



Samuel Mitchell
Community-centered education
Puget Sound Community School



Sieglinde Levery-Nicholas
Director of Community Engagement
Puget Sound Community School



Hannah Blacksin
Teaching staff member
Puget Sound Community School

L2. Instructional coaches, peer mentors, teachers interested in peer mentoring/instructional coaching

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM, Oct 13

📍 Lower School 212

Discussion / Gath...

A gathering of instructional coaches, peer mentors, and teachers interested in peer mentoring/instructional coaching. We will have casual lunchtime conversations and facilitate participants sharing insights and experiences.

🗣️ Speakers



Nancy Woller
Liberal Arts Teaching Chair
The Waterford School



Bekka Joslin
The Waterford School

L3. After School Professionals - Directors of Auxiliary Programs, Extended Care Coordinators, after care staff etc.

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM, Oct 13

📍 Lower School 213

Discussion / Gath...

A gathering of After School Professionals - Directors of Auxiliary Programs, Extended Care Coordinators, after care staff etc.

🗣️ Speaker



Euan Oswald
Director of Auxiliary Programs
Open Window School

L4. Elementary School Counselors

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM, Oct 13

📍 Lower School 220

Discussion / Gath...

A gathering of Elementary School Counselors

🗣️ Speaker



Lynsey Burge
School Counselor
Giddens School

L5. Librarians Gathering

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM, Oct 13

📍 Lower School Library 201

Discussion / Gath...

Get together to cavort with the other librarians from NWAIS schools. Catch up on the fabulous things librarians have been up to, share what you've been reading, and share great resources we have found.

🗣️ Speaker



Kelly Vikstrom-Hoyt
Director of Library and Instructional Technology
The Overlake School

L6. Early Career Educators

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 101

Discussion / Gath...

A gathering of those in their first few years of teaching. The meeting will include time to connect with other colleagues, share ideas and celebrate the start of the school year.

🗣️ Speakers



Regan Wensnahan
Director of Enrollment and Marketing
The Little School



Mollie Page
Director Of Curriculum And Instruction
Eastside Catholic School



Flavia Vidal
Director of Teaching and Learning
The Overlake School

L7. Latinx Affinity Space: anti-blackness and anti-indigeneity in Latinx cultures

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 102

Discussion / Gath...

A gathering of Latine/x educators to celebrate excellence as well as challenge ourselves to explore anti-blackness and anti-indigeneity among Latine/x cultures.

🗣️ Speaker



Lily Medina
DEI Director
Seattle Country Day School

L8. White European Heritage Educators Affinity Space: Unlearning Racism

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM, Oct 13

📍 Lower School Commons

Discussion / Gath...

A gathering of White European Heritage Educators to to work to heal from and unlearn the racism that white people are taught, in subtle and not so subtle ways. As white people we might have learned to not talk about race or racism and to distance ourselves from people who accidentally or on purpose act out their racism. Our coming together is a slap in the face of racism. Participants will come away with new connections, tools, and encouragement to continue the good and challenging work of examining and eliminating racism in their communities.

🗣️ Speaker



Hannah McHugh

Coach, Facilitator, Educator
Hannah McHugh Consulting

L9. Pathways to Leadership Current Cohort and Alumnae

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School Library

Discussion / Gath...

A Gathering of alumnae from across the cohorts - All Current Memters and Alums of Pathways are encouraged to attend

🗣️ Speakers



Liz Swift

Retired Head of Holy Names Academy
Pathways to Leadership



Elaine Christensen

Head of School
Open Window School

L10. Info Session for NWAIS Emerging Leaders Institute - Calling All Emerging Leaders

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School Room 103

Discussion / Gath...

This is a meeting for those who are intersted in learning more about joining a future cohort of the NWAIS Emerging Leaders Institute.

Emerging Leaders is a year-long cohort-based program to develop independent school leaders. The program will support participants to take the next step in their career through reflective practice and building skills. Next steps may be toward taking on new responsibilities in their current role or taking on something completely new. Participants will meet monthly in person and via zoom, attend an opening retreat as well as NWAIS professional development programming.

[You can find more information about the program, what it entails, and application deadlines here](#)

Join for this live info session to connect with other Emerging Leaders and well as the program faculty.

👤 Speakers



Marianne Picha
Book Bag Learning



Jabali Stewart
Co-Founder
Huayruro



Giselle Furlonge
Associate Head of School
Seattle Academy of Arts and Sciences



Jij de Jesus
Director of Strategic Initiatives
Rowland Hall

L11: Head of School Lunch

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM, Oct 13

📍 Upper School Commons

Discussion / Gath...

Join Heads of School for a casual lunch to connect and share about the start of your year.

[Please RSVP if you would like to attend.](#)

If you have RSVP'ed a lunch will be waiting for you. If you have not RSVP'ed please grab a lunch from the Dome or Middle School commons and bring it to the Upper School Commons.

L12. DEI Practitioners

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 104

Discussion / Gath...

Join other DEI practitioners from across the association for casual opportunity to connect over lunch.

👤 Speaker



Jude Miqueli
Director of Educational Technology
Epiphany School

L13. Tech Directors Gathering

🕒 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM, Oct 13

📍 Middle School 105

Discussion / Gath...

Join Tech Directors from across the association to connect and chat over lunch.

👤 Speaker



Jennifer Lamkins
Coordinator of Member & Technology Support Service
NWAIS

1:15 PM

C1. FEARLESSLY DIFFERENT: Our Differences Are Our Strengths, Success for Neurodiverse Students - , Making Universally Designed Instruction easy and fun

🕒 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM, Oct 13

📍 Tarrier Dome

General Session

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

Neurodivergence

Wellness/SEL

20 – 25% of the population is disabled, according to the CDC. Therefore teachers already interact with students with disabilities, IDEA, and IEPs daily. Mickey empowers educators to make that aspect of every teacher’s day a little easier and less stressful.

When we think with an accessibility mindset, we help all of our students succeed, not just those with disabilities. Teachers change these students’ lives daily and deserve some thanks and appreciation straight from the source. LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- OPTIMISM: Educators shape futures daily. Often without realizing it. Mickey’s life was changed by a teacher, Ms. Ritchie, who fought to get him his IEP. Ms. Ritchie doesn’t know she changed Mickey’s life or what he is accomplishing now. Every teacher changes students’ lives in ways they never get to see.
- FLUENCY: Mickey takes IEPs and IDEA from stressful obligations to fun, easy, and empowering frameworks.
- CONFIDENCE: Educators will become confident talking about disability. According to the CDC, 20 – 25% of the population has a disability, so this confidence will make every educator’s life easier daily.

🗣️ Speaker



Mickey Rowe

Speaker / Consultant / Author of Fearlessly Different
Top Youth Speakers

C2. Plant Seeds Know Shade

🕒 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM, Oct 13

📍 Tarrier Dome

General Session

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

Neurodivergence

Wellness/SEL

Creating a culture where growth is normal takes intention and care. Too often, when challenges occur, time is spent questioning the seeds and not considering the soil. In this storytelling session participants will learn how to pair the expert in field, with the expert in the need, to co-create environments where even the unexpected can thrive.

🗣️ Speaker



Christian Paige

Founder
Fifth Stone Collective Co

2:30 PM

D1. For the Love of Learning

🕒 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Wight Gym

Featured Speaker

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

Neurodivergence

Wellness/SEL

Teachers have been searching for a way to ignite passion and motivation in kids for years. How is it that many bright students struggle with basic motivation? The secret to motivation is deeper than a growth mindset, and drive isn't as black-and-white as intrinsic versus extrinsic motivation. Through this presentation, Emily shares the three ingredients needed for self-regulated motivation. Implementing these steps helps our learners harness their motivation, leaving us on the sideline to watch them soar.

Speaker



Emily Kircher-Morris, LPC
Licensed Professional Counselor
The Neurodiversity Podcast

D2. Increasing Work Engagement in Students

🕒 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 Lower School Commons

Featured Speaker

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Neurodivergence

Wellness/SEL

Among the many reasons new teachers leave the field within their first five years, disruptive students are on the top of the list. Without intervention, these children are at risk for poor performance, diminished learning, and social/behavior problems in school. Overwhelming, negative, and inaccurate thoughts can contribute to student disengagement. When this is the case, traditional suggestions such as incentives, offering breaks, graphic organizers, or even checklists will not help the student initiate an activity. As a result of this workshop, participants will be able to easily implement preventive tools, strategies, and interventions for reducing oppositional behavior, increasing work engagement, initiation, persistence, and self-monitoring.

Speaker



Jessica Minahan
Consultant/Presenter
N/A

D3. The Life-Changing Power of Inclusion in Education: A Q&A style discussion blended with solid best practices that educators can incorporate into their practice to create affirming spaces for neurodiverse students.

🕒 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM, Oct 13

📍 LAPAC Theater

Featured Speaker

Early Learning

Lower School

Middle School

Upper School

DEI

Neurodivergence

A more intimate conversation that involves Q&A and digs into the nitty gritty of putting Universally Designed Instruction in practice in the classroom. Includes specific real world classroom tools you can begin implementing tomorrow!

Speaker



Mickey Rowe
Speaker / Consultant / Author of Fearlessly Different
Top Youth Speakers